FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 AUGUST 1986

Libya

A Syrian-Libyan joint statement on President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said the two leaders condemned the U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers, adding that they call on "national and patriotic forces" in Egypt to confront this "provocative" act. The statement, which was carried by Damascus radio and JANA, noted that Al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support for Libya with all its potential and resources in confronting any "aggression." The two leaders also agreed on a number of measures to reinforce the "unitary march" of the two fraternal states.

In Moscow, Soviet officials held talks with a visiting Libyan delegation during which "serious concern" was expressed over the "tense situation" around Libya, TASS reported. The Soviet agency subsequently cited "extremely alarming" reports that the United States is planning a new "punitive strike" against Libya. Meanwhile, Libyan envoy Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in Algiers, according to Algiers radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes raided Iranian oil pumping stations in the Ahvaz and Marun oil fields 26 August to prevent repair work and to further destroy facilities in the two oil fields, the Iraqi command stated in a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The radio also broadcast an announcement that Iraqi planes hit another large maritime target off the Iranian coast later that day.

Iranian planes bombed Iraqi oil platforms in the northern part of the Gulf, according to a military communique reported by IRNA.

Iran

Relations With Turkey — Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu arrived in Tehran 27 August at the start of a 3-day visit, IRNA reported, noting that his first round of talks with the Iranian foreign minister covered bilateral relations and Turkey's recent air raid in northern Iraq. Halefoglu told his Iranian counterpart that the raid was not a move against Iraqi Kurds and he stressed his eagerness to clarify any problems arising from it. Before his departure for Iran, Ankara radio cited Halefoglu's remark that the way to resolve differences between the two countries is not to break relations but to increase contacts because "friends must speak frankly to each other."

Meanwhile, a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement carried by ANATOLIA responded to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's recent remarks about Ataturk by stressing Turkey's determination to progress in accordance with Ataturkist principles. Turkey has scrupulously refrained from interfering in the internal affairs of its neighbors, the statement said, and it has the right to expect the same behavior from other countries.

Cooperation With USSR in Caspian — The Soviet Union has agreed in principle to cooperate with Iran in drilling operations to explore oil and gas reserves in the southern sector of the Caspian sea, IRNA announced, adding that talks will start in September to make arrangements for the project.

Iraq-USSR

President Saddam Husayn asked visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy to convey a message to the Soviet leadership reaffirming Iraq's eagerness to promote relations of friendship and cooperation, INA reported.

Israel and Africa

After returning from Cameroon, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that between two to four other African countries are considering the renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel. He noted that Israel and Cameroon have reached agreement on cooperation in agriculture, industry, tourism, and military/security issues.

Syria

President al-Asad received the visiting Spanish foreign minister who conveyed a message from the Spanish prime minister affirming Spain's "consistent stand on the just Arab cause," Damascus radio reported. Al-Asad accepted an official invitation to visit Spain.

The radio also announced the arrival in Damascus of a Soviet delegation headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov.

Lebanon

Christian leaders declare their "full support for the dialogue process," Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah announced in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon following a meeting of key Christian leaders at Phalangist headquarters. The conferees noted "positive signs that an atmosphere conducive to Lebanese dialogue now exists" and called for an immediate cease-fire across the Muslim-Christian combat lines. The leaders of the Lebanese Forces and the National Liberal Party were among those attending the meeting, the radio disclosed.

On the Muslim side, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said he is ready to attend cabinet meetings in order to discuss ways of implementing the tripartite agreement but he warned that the dialogue process will prove fruitless if it does not lead to the

implementation of the agreement, Voice of National Resistance radio reported.

Sudan

The interior minister denied the Ugandan president's claim that Sudan is assisting Ugandan rebels and expressed Sudan's desire to develop relations with Uganda, SUNA reported.

On the situation in the south, the SPLA's clandestine radio reported a "mass exodus" of citizens from Waw where starvation is "reaching a climax."

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Najibullah Visits Jalalabad City

LD262110 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, visited Jalalabad City today and delivered a speech at the glorious and broad meeting of thousands of the Jalalabad citizens, which was convened in the Jamhuriat Park. Comrade Najibullah arrived in Jalalabad City at approximately 0800 today. At the Jalalabad City airport he was welcomed warmly by the head of the eastern zone, the secretary and members of the Nangarhar provincial party committee, chairmen and members of the executive delegation of the people's delegates council of Jalalabad City, a number of chiefs, elders, representatives, and leaders of the nationalities and tribes of Nangarhar Province, and a number of pioneers of this province.

After the airport ceremony, Comrade Najibullah, took part in glorious meetings at Jalalabad city, held in Jamhuriat Park. He was warmly welcomed there by the toiling people of Jalalabad City. [passage omitted]

Comrade Najibullah, amid the enthusiasm and revolutionary feelings of the meeting's participants, delivered a speech and said:

My first word is the word of peace; peace is important because we all want it. What does our persecuted land want and for what is every family on every street thirsty?

We, the Afghan patriots, revolutionaries, and strugglers for the prosperity of the people, say explicity that it is enough. We must reach agreement; we must admit mutual interests and on the basis of patriotism we must unite. We are ready to implement in practice the words we have said. On behalf of the revolutionary state of revolutionary Afghanistan's people, I declare this resolution to you. Not only that we want peace, but that our great northern neighbor also wants peace. Our Soviet brothers and sisters have accomplished, and are accomplishing, much work for the construction of our independent and free country.

The Soviet leader M. Gorbachev, also has spoken about peace. His goodwill demonstrates peace. With our agreement, a number of his military units will be returning from Afghanistan to their peace-loving country.

My second word is about the sacred religion and our faith: I am a Muslim and all of my family are Muslims, as you are all Muslims. I am a member of the party and a revolutionary Afghan. We all read the Holy Koran and observe the Shari'a. We all take action for the progress of religion and faith and for its holiness. For us there is no any other god except the Almighty God and Mohammad is his true messenger.

During the post-revolution years, we have built new mosques. We have restored and reconstructed the mosques and holy places that were destroyed by the enemy.

Over the past five years only the revolutionary government has spent millions of afghanis on this path. This sum is many times more in comparison to the 50-year reign of Zahir Shah and his father.

Comrade Najibullah added:

My third word is about our neighboring brethren. We have relations and profound historic interests with our fraternal Pashtun and Baluchi people. On the basis of these profound historic relations, we declare our solidarity with their struggles for freedom and with their anti-imperialist (?struggle), and express support for them. This is and will be our policy; this reciprocal solidarity is militant solidarity. We say clearly that this friendship and our policy vis-a-vis our Pashtun and Baluchi brethren is not hostility with Pakistan and it does not mean any hostile policy against it.

We know that we and the Pakistani people are living in one region. We are united in one direction and this is peace. The fact that we should live in peace can be explained in reciprocal cooperation, cultural richness, and experience of the two countries for the removal of backwardness and of socioeconomic development.

Comrade Najibullah said:

We have always extended and are extending the hand of friendship and fraternity to the people of Pakistan. Hostile propaganda against the people of Pakistan is forbidden in our country. We have never carried out aggression against the internal affairs of any country and hence, we have never interfered in the internal affairs of the Pakistani Government. It is a proven fact that we have always been against interference in the internal affairs of others.

It must be mentioned that the Pakistani regime has been transformed into a center for provocations by international reaction and U.S. imperialism. A clear example is the undeclared war against our country and interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. They want to alter our friendship and fraternity with hostility. Any human being with a rational mind knows that the undeclared war and the interference in our country will lead to damaging the people of both countries.

Today, the lethal weapons that have been piled up in Pakistan are being used for killing the children of workers, peasants, and women of our country. These weapons also can be used to eliminate the fighters of the path of freedom, young intelligentsia, and all Pakistani people. Contrary to this, the people of both countries can live in peace, good neighborliness, and mutual respect.

Let our countries speak the language of peace, not the language of hostility and pessimism, and work for securing and consolidating peace.

Once again, we extend the hand of friendship and good neighborliness to the government of Pakistan. I think there is no obstacle to the improvement of our relations, the establishment of good-neighborly and reciprocal cooperation, and the fact that we should not interfere in each other's internal affairs. The people's wish must be taken into consideration, not the interests and evil plans of the United States and its collaborators. [passage omitted]

Comrade Najibullah then visited the party committee of Jalalabad City and heard a report about the work and activities of this committee for the consolidation and expansion of revolutionary sovereignty in this city.

In speaking with the secretary and members of the Jalalabad City party committee, Comrade Najibullah pointed out their shortcomings and defects and drew the attention of this party organization to the reconstruction of party and political work in light of the decisions of 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. [passage omitted]

Comrade Najibullah then visited the Nangarhar military division. At the meeting of officers, NCO's, and men of this division, he expressed gratitude for their heroism in crushing the rebel bands and counterrevolutionary elements. He specified the fundamental duties put before the DRA Army by the 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum for the strengthening, conscription, call-up, and consolidation of the Army and the enhancement of combat preparedness and political work.

At the end of this meeting, the commander of the 11th Infantry Division, on behalf of the officers and men of this division, assured Comrade Najibullah that night and day, they were prepared for sacrifice and devoted to the implementation of duties allotted to them by 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

Comrade Najibullah returned to Kabul this afternoon. Comrade Najibullah was accompanied on this visit by Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense; and Major General Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politbruo and minister of state security.

Rebel Gangs Reported 'Crushed' in Herat

LD261458 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, 26 Aug (*Bakhtar*) — The counterrevolutionary bands who, for some time, were disrupting the peaceful life of the people of Herat Province by their savage and inhuman actions, were destroyed as a result of the crushing blows of the DRA Armed Forces, and their satanical nests were crushed.

The troops, NCOs, and courageous officers of the Armed Forces conducted a heroic assault on the enemy cutting the supply routes of the enemy at the border in the northwest of Herat Province, and inflicted blows on several groups belonging to the Gulbuddin and Rabbani bands around Herat City, Kamana, and Kakari regions.

A *Bakhtar* correspondent reports that as a result of this successful operation a large number of traitors to the homeland and revolution were crushed and 35 caches of arms and equipment belonging to them, used for the murder of the innocent people of Herat, were seized by the heroic Armed Forces. Also five food depots, four clothing depots, and one medicine store along with a large number of light weapons and antistate documents were seized from them.

During these operations, which were mounted in cooperation with the noble people of Herat Province, the counterrevolutionaries, directly supported by the Iranian state, were faced with a disgraceful defeat and the bitter memory of the defeat of the rebels in the Zhawara region of Khost Major-District, Marmol of Balkh Province, and Panjshir District in Parwan Province, was revived.

Sa'at and Reza, two of the counterrevolution elements who were captured during the operation at the Kakari region by the security forces, told a *Bakhtar* correspondent about the training, equipment, arming, and infiltration of the bandits of the Iranian state to subvert the territory of the DRA.

They said that the counterrevolution had used all their possibilities and force in resisting the DRA Armed Forces and made every effort to preserve their shameful existence in the vicinity of Herat Province. But the DRA Armed Forces, who enjoyed the complete support of the people, broke the resistance of the bands and inflicted a decisive defeat.

The *Bakhtar* correspondent adds that the toiling people of Herat welcomed with fervor the successful operations of the Armed Forces at meetings and gatherings and promised every kind of cooperation in preserving a peaceful atmosphere in the province.

The situation in Herat Province has returned to normal and the people have resumed their peaceful and secure life.

40 Soviet Troops Reported Killed in Konar

LD222255 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Aug (SPA) — Forty Soviet soldiers were killed, 3 tanks were destroyed, and 13 military transport vehicles were destroyed during an attack launched by the Afghan mujahidin against the invading Soviet forces at Asmar region in the Afghan province of Konar this month.

Mujahidin sources said in Islamabad tonight that the Afghan mujahidin groups were able to destroy 2 tanks using rockets, while 3 others were destroyed by land mines at (Krayanj) in the center of Ghazni Province.

The sources added that that the mujahidin attacked positions of the Soviet puppet Afghan Army around the region of Orgunin the eastern state of Paktia which resulted in the killing of 86 soldiers; 24 others joined the Afghan resistance.

Elections Underway Amid 'Terror' Accusations

BK261018 Hong Kong AFP in English 1014 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 26 (AFP) — By-elections were taking place Tuesday in eight constituencies in Bangladesh amid opposition allegations that the pro-government Jatiya Party was using "terror tactics" to score victory.

In Dhaka, officials said voting had begun peacefully in one constituency where Home Minister Major General Mahmudul Hasan, a retired army general and top leader of the Jatiya Party, was running against Motiya Choudhury, a leader of the opposition Awami League.

But an Awami spokesman told reporters early Tuesday: "The hooligans of the Jatiya Party had already taken over most of the polling centres."

Rashed Mosharraf, an Awami MP, accused the ruling party of using "terror tactics to rig the votes" in favour of the Jatiya candidate.

Officials had earlier refused to comment on allegations of "terror tactics."

No reports were immediately available from the other seven constituencies.

Eighteen candidates are contesting the by-elections, in which 1.32 million voters are eligible to turn up at 667 polling centres.

The by-elections are being held as a result of May's general election.

Under Bangladeshi election rules, candidates in a general election can contest more than one seat, but if they win more than one seat — as eight of them did — they must retain only one constituency and drop the rest.

Hasina Accuses Ershad

BK251254 Hong Kong AFP in Hong 1235 AMG 25 Aug 86

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 25 (AFP) — Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed accused the Bangladesh authorities Monday of detaining nearly 150 opposition campaign workers in a crackdown prior to parliamentary by-elections Tuesday.

Sheikh Hasina, leader of an opposition alliance headed by her Bangladesh Awami League, alleged that the military regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad had unleashed a "reign of terror" in eight constituencies where by-elections are being held.

She said 150 opposition campaign workers had been held in the last few days.

By-elections are being held in these constituencies because under election law winners of two or more parliamentary seats in a general election in May must retain only one.

Officials at the Home Ministry declined to comment on her accusations, but did say police reinforcements had been sent to the eight constituencies as a precaution against any disturbances during the polling.

Sheikh Hasina told *Agence France-Presse* that Gopalganj, about 120 kilometres (74 miles) from here, "looks like a battlefield as troops, paramilitary forces, and reserve police have been deployed."

All schools and colleges in two constituencies in Gopalganj, both Awami League strongholds, had been closed because the premises had been occupied by Army and police reinforcements.

The seats for these two constituenceis, Gopalganj-1 and Gopalganj-3, fell vacant when Sheikh Hasina herself relinquished them.

The sheikh is to retain a seat for a Dhaka constituency.

Her Awami League and its minor allies together won 101 seats in the country's 330-seat parliament, elected on May 7.

The opposition alleged the election had been marred by fraud and rigging by the pro-government Jatiya Party, which secured a simple majority but failed to win the 220 seats required to ensure the smooth passage of a bill to validate Mr. Ershad's 4-1/2 years of martial law rule.

However, Jatiya Party sources said they were confident it would soon be able to command the necessary support.

Of the seats being contested in the by-elections, six were vacated by the Jatiya Party and two by the Awami League.

Sheikh Hasina, whose parliamentary group has boycotted Parliament since its inauguration on July 10, has threatened to continue the boycott if the government does not take immediate steps to end martial law.

She asserted thata 80 to 85 per cent of voters in the two Gopalganj constituencies were Awami League supporters, but expressed fear about their ability to "exercise their voting rights in the face government intimidation."

In Tuesday's by-elections, Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan, a retired general and a top member of the Jatiya Party, is contesting a seat in Dhaka.

Another important candidate is the law minister, Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, who is running for election in Manikganj, about 60 kilometres (37 miles) from here.

In the northeastern district of Sunamganj, Awami League former Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is running against the Jatiya Party's Faruk Rashid Chowdhury, younger brother of Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Hasna Moudud, wife of Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, is contesting a seat in the eastern district of Noakhali against a young Awami League leader, Obaidur Qadir.

Campaigning was officially halted early on Sunday in all eight constituencies, where 1.32 million voters are expected to turn out.

Soviet Special Envoy Meets With Ershad

BK261619 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] The special Soviet envoy, Mr O.V. Bostorin, now on a visit to Bangladesh, today called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan. Mr Bostorin conveyed to the president a message from the Soviet leadership. The Soviet envoy expressed his government's appreciation for Dhaka's role in upholding the cause of world peace and complete disarmament at the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. He said Bangladesh's election as the president of the UN General Assembly bears testimony to its growing role in different international forums. Reciprocating the sentiments recently expressed by Soviet leaders for further improvement of ties between Dhaka and Moscow, President Ershad expressed satisfaction at the existing friendly relations between them. The president appreciated Soviet assistance in Bangladesh's development efforts particularly in the fields of power generation and communication. President Ershad referred to Bangladesh's efforts in promoting regional peace and harmony with particular reference to the launching of the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

IRNA: Ambassador to Bangladesh Meets Ershad

LD261041 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Dhaka, Aug. 26, IRNA — The new Iranian ambassador to Dhaka, Gholam Reza Yosefi, in a meeting with the President of Bangladesh General Mohammad Ershad here Tuesday presented his credentials.

The Iranian diplomat discussed the trend of the Iranian foreign policy which stresses expansion of relations with Third World countries and the Muslim countries in particular.

General Ershad stressing importance of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed interest of his country in further strengthening of bilateral ties.

Antigovernment Violence Continuing in Sind Towns

BK261600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Excerpt] There are reports of more anti-government demonstrations in Pakistan. The supporters of the opposition parties have gone on a rampage in the Sind Province. The new Jatoi railway station in the center of the province was burnt down by a 500 strong mob of protesters. A government resthouse at Johi, north of Karachi was also set ablaze. In another incident at least five persons including two policemen have been killed by a gang of dacoits in broad daylight in Moro. It is said to be the third such incident in the last few days. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Denied Private Meeting With Lawyer

BK261050 Hong Kong AFP in English 1044 GMT 26 Aug 86

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 26 (AFP) — Pakistan's jailed opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto, is calling for a private meeting with her lawyer after prison officials from the Karachi prison tried to sit in on a meeting Monday, her lawyer Hussain Shah Rashedi said Tuesday.

Miss Bhutto is the only adult female prisoner at the Karachi delinquents' prison.

A local magistrate allowed Mr. Rashedi to see his client after a newspaper reported that Miss Bhutto, 33-year-old daughter of hanged former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was denied meetings with her counsels ever since her detention August 14 for violating a ban on political gatherings.

Mr. Rashedi told *Agence France-Presse* by telephone that he was moving a petition in the high court to have a private meeting with his client, whose health was "all right".

Miss Bhutto Monday refused to talk in the presence of prison and intelligence officials, who turned down her request for a private meeting.

Miss Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, is being held for 30 days, and political analysts have ruled out the possibility of her early release.

Police in Sind Province, of which Karachi is the capital, Monday denied reports that she had been charged with sedition, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Analysts said her arrest and the apparent lack of countrywide support in the opposition parties' campaign for her freedom showed that Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo's government was not under extreme pressure to release her.

The anti-government protests over the last two weeks, spearheaded by PPP workers, remained confined to Miss Bhutto's home province of Sind, and their failure to spread to Punjab Province apparently removed fears in government circles that her arrest could result in a bloodbath, they said.

According to observers, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), a 10-party opposition alliance with the PPP as its nucleus, was caught up by events while it was in the planning stages of a national campaign for party-based elections later this year.

The MDR, one week before the police clampdown on hundreds of activists political leaders, had given a deadline of September 20 for an election schedule after which the alliance was to start its agitation.

Both President Mohammed Ziaul-Haq and Premier Junejo have dismissed the demand for party-based elections insisting that the MDR parties, by boycotting the February 1985's party-less polls "missed the bus in 1985. They should wait for the second bus due in 1990."

Spokesman on Relations With India, Afghanistan

BK261715 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] It is expected that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo will meet with several world leaders to discuss bilateral matters and international issues on the occasion of the nonaligned summit in Harare.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Islamabad today that the prime minister's delegation at the nonaligned summit will include Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Information Minister Chaudhury Shujat Hussain, and some members of the parliament. Junejo is expected to address the summit on 2 September and will attend most of the summit session at Harare.

Asked about the possibility of the prime minister's meeting Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the spokesman said that both sides have expressed a desire for such a meeting. It is expected that the prime ministers will exchange views, especially on subjects included in the agenda for bilateral talks on progress in normalizing relations between the two countries. The spokesman said there was no deadlock in the bilateral talks be[illegible]en Pakistan and India. Pakistan is ready to expedite the [illegible]ocess of bilateral talks. He said Pakistan has granted permission to the private sector to import goodsfrom India and it is ready to increase the list of such goods. We have made progress in opening the land route [for trade] between the two countries.

On Afghanistan, the spokesman said Pakistan participates in this summit with the belief that the Nonaligned Movement will reaffirm its stand on this issue which it adopted at the last conference. On the latest indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva the spokesman said that the drafting of documents has been completed including the important prargraph dealing with the settlement of the differences that may arise in the course of implementation of the agreement. The spokesman reiterated that as far as the withdrawal of Soviet forces is concerned, Pakistan supports a short, reasonable, acceptable timeframe. The spokesman expressed the hope that after consultations with the parties concerned, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, will announce the date of the resumption of talks during the coming weeks.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said the visit of the prime minsiter to Kenya has been rescheduled due to his very busy program.

Wali Khan Warns of 'Bloody Revolution'

BK221242 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] Karachi, Aug 19 — Khan Abdul Wali Khan, President of the Awami National Party, [ANP], and his wife left here for Moscow on Monday in connection with the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference there.

Earlier, he held a press conference at the Clifton residence of Mr Hakim Ali Zardari, President ANP (Sind), at which he condemned crackdown on the MRD leaders, followed by action against the MRD demonstrators on the Independence Day in Lahore and Karachi, during the subsequent disturbances.

The ANP chief demanded that all the political prisoners be released unconditionally, Section 144 be withdrawn, and the MRD's demand for announcement of election schedule by Sept 20 be accepted.

He was asked why the ANP as a component of the MRD had not yet joined the movement. Mr Wali Khan explained that his party had yet to be organised. As such, the MRD Central Action Committee was informed that the ANP would be in a position to take part in the Sept 20 movement. Even so, he said, some 200 ANP leaders and workers, including Secretary-General Sardar Shaukat Ali, have already been put behind the bar in Sind and Punjab.

"What to talk of joining the democratic struggle, we are right in it", he pointed out while maintaining that his proceeding to Moscow did not matter for "I am not running away from Pakistan; I will come back soon."

Explaining why he could not do anything without his party being organised at the provincial and other levels. he said: "The ANP believes in full provincial autonomy. This autonomy should also have been reflected in the party's provincial bodies. I, as President of the ANP, cannot give a call in the air."

Mr Wali Khan was particularly critical of the "unusually repressive way" the people of Sind were being treated with. The deployment of the army and use of the Frontier Constabulary in the interior of Sind was bound to further alienate the Sindhis from the national mainstream — a trend which, he said, was highly explosive.

The ANP chief told a correspondent that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's decision to ban political meetings on Aug 14 was "not only illegal but immoral". The civilian government has, in his view, exposed itself as being "worse" than the Martial Law regime during which people, at least, had not been denied the opportunity to participate in the Independence Day celebrations.

"We are at the bottom of snakes and ladder; if political issues are not settled politically, and, instead, force is employed to suppress the voice of dissent, then even a nonviolent agitation will not deliver the goods and a bloody revolution of the Iranian trype will take place," Mr Wali Khan observed.

2 Officers Abducted by Afghan Militia

BK270134 Hong Kong AFP in English 0102 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 26 (AFP) — Afghan militiamen abducted two Pakistani Army officers in the Pakistani border province of Baluchistan Monday, official sources said in Quetta Tuesday.

The officers, identified as a major and a captain, were unarmed and were walking in track suits when they were seized and whisked away across the border in a jeep, the sources said.

Their presence across the border was confirmed by traders coming from Afghanistan, they added. No further details were immediately avialable.

The Afghan Government last month released three Pakistani civilians after keeping them hostage for several months. Meanwhile, Radio Kabul, monitored here, quoted Afghan leader Najibullah as saying Tuesday that his government had stopped anti- Pakistani propaganda and stressed that Kabul's close ties with Moscow was not directed against Pakistan.

"We want to march hand in hand with the people of Pakistan for the prosperity of our two peoples," he reportedly added during a brief visit to Jalalabad, a garrison town across Pakistan's Tor Khan border.

He said that instead of "storing arms for use (by Afghan rebels) against our children, Pakistan should reciprocate the offer and follow a policy of peaceful co-existence."

He also accused the United States of seeking to turn the historic friendship betwen the Afghan and Pakistani peoples into permanent enmity.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Operations

BK221120 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, the freedom fighters are reported to have further intensified their activities this month against the ruling pro-Soviet Kabul junta. Reports say the freedom fighters in their clashes with the Kabul forces in Azmar cantonment and Shegal areas of Konar Province have killed 42, destroyed 13 armored vehicles, 2 heavy guns, and hit 3 tanks. In an explosion in the waiting room of the Jalalabad airport, 15 civilians and military officers of the Kabul regime were killed and 31 others wounded. The explosion was made by security men in cooperation with the freedom fighters. The freedom fighters also raided Ismailkhel security post in Paktia Province, killing a soldier and wounding two others. The communications minister of the Kabul junta, who was on a visit to the post, took to his heels along with his bodyguards to save his life.

INDIA

Security Tightened; 300 Arrested in Gujarat

BK270315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Choudhury, has appealed to the people of Ahmedabad not to participate in religious processions and meetings in the city today in the interest of maintenance of peace. In a statement, the chief minister regretted that some religious leaders and institutions have not changed their decisions to take out processions in sensitive areas of the city in violation of the ban. The Ahmedabad City civil court has rejected an appeal against the ban on religious processions and meetings today.

Meanwhile, the police bundobust [arrangement] in the city has been tightened. Prohibitory orders have been issued on the movement of vehicles in some areas and the entry of vehicles in the city from a number of points has been banned. Additional companies of state reserve police and Border Security Force have been deployed in the sensitive areas.

The police have arrested more than 300 antisocial elements in the last 24 hours as a precautionary measure.

Curfew Lifted as Normalcy Returns to Punjab Town

BK270333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, with the situation returning to normal, the curfew in Giddarbaha town of Faridkot District has been lifted since last night. According to the district magistrate, the local leaders of all political parties and other organizations have resolved to maintain peace and amity in the town at all costs. The curfew was clamped in the town in view of the tension following the cremation of two of the three victims of Sunday's shooting incident near Moga.

Gandhi Message to Harare Preparatory Meeting

BK260356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Mr Gandhi has expressed the hope that the Eighth Nonaligned Summit at Harare will make a notable contribution to the struggle against oppression in South Africa. In a message over Zimbabwe TV on the eve of the preparatory meeting, Mr Ghandi said practical ways of extending support to the Frontline States must be a matter of high priority in the discussion.

Stressing the need for greater economic cooperation among the nonaligned countries, the prime minister said that while cooperation among developing countries is no substitute for a new international economic order, progress in mutual cooperation need not wait for the resumption of the North-South dialogue. Mr Gandhi said nonaligned as a prescription for peace is even more valid today than it was 25 years ago. The movement rejects the view that peace in the world is best maintained through a balance of terror. As long as nuclear weapons exist there is the omnipresent danger of these being used. The alternative to this awful prospect is friendly relations between countries with different social and economic systems. He said the Nonaligned Movement has kept a large part of the international community out of power bloc rivalries, and without it, disaster might already have overcome the world.

2 Suspects Arrested in Vaidya Murder Case

BK260330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Two persons suspected of being involved in the assassination of the former army chief, General A.S. Vaidya, have been arrested. A 24-year-old youth resembling (Sukhinder Singh) — one of the accomplices of Harinder Singh alias Jinda — was nabbed by the (Margao) police near the Goa-Karnataka border last evening. Earlier, another accomplice of Jinda, Bhola, was apprehended by the Bhandara police near Nagpur. The entire forest area in the district is being combed for two of his associates.

NEPAL

King Departs To Attend Nonaligned Summit

BK261450 Katmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Excerpts] Their majesties the king and queen left Katmandu this morning on a special aircraft on their way to Harare, Zimbabwe, to attend the Eighth Nonaligned Summit Conference. [passage omitted on airport farewell ceremony].

Their majesties the king and queen will stopover at Male, the capital of the Maldives, for a short while, on the way to Seychelles. Their majesties will arrive at Harare on 31 August after paying informal visits to the Seychelles and Tanzania. From Harare, their majesties the king and queen will pay informal visits to Zambia, Kenya, and Oman. Their majesties the king and queen are scheduled to arrive back in Katmandu on September the 13th.

Premier, Minister Address Trade Fair Opening

LD261250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] According to reports from Central News Unit correspondents, during the opening ceremonies of the Tehran International Fair, which were attended by a number of ministers and officials, diplomatic and commercial representatives of foreign countries in Iran, and representatives of countries participating in the fair, Prime Minister Musavi said in a speech: The holding of this fair shows the desire of the Islamic Republic Government to expand economic and commercial relations with the outside world, provided the relations are not turned into levers to exert political pressure or make hegemonistic moves.

In another part of his speech, defending Article 44 of the constitution, the prime minister said: In connection with the nationalization of foreign trade, those who seek a basic need [as heard] should know that this principle stresses the continual struggle of the Islamic Republic system against any form of foreign domination and the penetration of foreign cultures.

Stressing the priority of the long-term values and interests of the Islamic Republic system over day-to-day interests, the prime minister said: While striving to meet all our financial, economic, and commercial undertakings, at the same time we have tried not to fall in the deep chasm of dependence. We stand with all our might against any move which attempts, or is able to revive colonialist relations or neocolonialism in our country.

Referring to the plot to reduce oil prices, he said: After the plot to undermine the price of oil was hatched, many optimistic western analysts thought that the pressure and the damage resulting from the war and economic problems would force us to compromise with the world's financial and military powers, and would make us doubt the principles of our revolution and ideology, and thus weaken us. With confidence in their analysis, they spread rumors all over the world that the Islamic Republic has been dragged into borrowing money from foreign banks and compromising with western policies. But, at that time, we declared the weakness and emptiness of this analysis. We said that our revolution and our nation — and following them, our government — are not prepared to beg from anyone. In the future, no financial commitments and economic problems will be able to weaken our system.

He finally expressed the hope that the fair will help the national economy and also be successful in expanding our friendly relations with the world, especially friendly countries.

According to our correspondent's report, during the opening ceremonies, Commerce Minister Abedi-Ja'fari submitted a report on the performance of his ministry and described the aims of the 12th Tehran International Fair. He said: The participation of 36 countries in the fair shows their willingness to strengthen diplomatic and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: The war imposed by the Iraqi regime on Iran and the various plots hatched by world arrogance against Iran were not able to prevent us from moving toward our aim of shedding dependence. In this respect, Iran's exports reached 526,000 tons, worth 41.18 billion rials, last year, which shows an increase of 95 percent in weight and 25 percent in value compared with the previous year. In the first 4 months of this year, more than 155,804 tons of assorted agricultural, industrial, and mineral goods, worth about 18 billion rials were exported, showing an increase of 81 percent in value compared with the same period last year.

According to our correspondent's report, the 12th Tehran International Fair will be last for 10 days, from 4th to 14th Shahrivah (26 August to 5 September). The first 4 days will be devoted to visits by the country's industrial and commercial experts and officials. Other people can visit the fair between 30 August and 5 September.

At the 12th Tehran International Trade Fair, in addition to dozens of our country's manufacturing, industrial, and agricultural institutes, 36 countries from Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and Oceania, and dozens of foreign companies have participated and exhibited their manufacturing and industrial goods.

Officials organizing the fair said: Marketing the products of domestic institutes participating in the fair and also appraising the possibilities of technology transfer in the required fields are among the main aims of the international fair.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives 27 Aug

NC270425 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] Mr Vahit Halefoglu, Turkish foreign minister, arrived early this morning on a 3-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was welcomed by our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati. Mr. Halefoglu said in an interview on arrival that his trip sought to consolidate the friendship between the two countries, and expressed the hope that his talks with Iranian officials and authorities would be effective in reinforcing this friendship. He added that during his stay in Tehran, he will hold talks on bilateral relations, and regional and international issues. He hoped, he said, that these talks would result in unanimous views.

The Turkish foreign minister, who is heading a political delegation, further said: We will also follow up on the commitments made during the visit of the Turkish prime minister to Iran. Visiting Tehran for the second time, Mr Halefoglu considers that visits by officials of the two countries are beneficial to their friendship and strengthen their ties.

Comments on Iraqi Air Raid

LD270925 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA — Foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey started first round of talks here Wednesday and discussed bilateral relations and recent Turkey's air raid on northern Iraq.

During the meeting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope that these visits would further expand bilateral ties and consolidate fraternal relations between the two neighboring countries.

Stressing that exchange of visits between officials of the two countries would be effective in further strengthening mutual ties, the Turkish foreign minister, Vahit Halefoglu,said that the two neighboring and friendly countries should better understand each other as to prevent misunderstandings.

On Turkey's military attack on northern Iraq, the Turkish foreign minister said that the measure was taken to safeguard territorial integrity of Turkey and was not a move against Iraqi Kurdish groups. He added that he was eager to visit Iran to clarify the problems caused by the recent developments in northern Iraq.

Referring to Turkey's relations with its other neighboring countries, Halefoglu explained situation of Muslims in Bulgaria and called for assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this connection.

The Turkish foreign minister arrived here Wednesday morning for a three-day visit and talks with Iranian officials.

Musavi-Ardabili Comments on Detention of Pilgrims

NC260722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Excerpts] The chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, returned to Tehran from the Hajj pilgrimage last night and was received at Mehrabad Airport by the prime minister, the chief prosecutor, and the entire Supreme Judicial Council, some ministers,and some other officials of the country.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court spoke to our correspondent on his trip to Holy Mecca and said: My visit was a personal and religious one and in my opinion, as well as in the opinion of most of the pilgrims, it was a most interesting trip. [passage omitted]

He added: Saudi Arabia's detention of a caravan of Iranian pilgrims was a cause for complaints. This was due to some sort of suspicion on their part and was unacceptable from a judicial as well as an international point of view. I hope the Saudi Arabian Government will resolve this problem as soon as possible as a reaffirmation of its cordial intentions. Continuing his interview, he said: On our trip to the House of God, when we asked the people why they wished to talk to us, they said that they were greatly impressed by our marches and komeyl prayers and this is due to the charisma of the Islamic revolution, the imam, and the actions of the Iranian pilgrims which has influenced the other nations.

Bomb Discovered Near Tehran Park

LD271001 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA — A 5-pound terrorist bomb planted near a park in northern Tehran was defused early Wednesday morning, the public relations of the Islamic revolution's Committee announced.

Five pounds of TNT, placed inside a jack, was planted underneath a domestically manufactured 'Paykan' car near 'Mellat' (People) Park, in northern Tehran. The committee personnel discovered and defused the bomb, it added.

Five Karbala' Battalions Leave for War Fronts

NC230812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Our colleague gives us the following report from the Mahabad Central News Unit on the departure of two battalions of combat forces for the fronts:

[Begin recording] In answer to the appeal by the great leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, for the extensive participation of our country's Muslims in the fronts, and as part of the continuing flow of Islamic (?devotees) to the front of the war of good against evil, two battalions of combatant forces from Miandoab and Sain Dezh, named the 'Ali ibn Abu Talib Battalion, a component of the seventh convoy for Karbala', left last night for the fronts of the war of light against darkness. They were warmly seen off by the Hizballah ummah amid slogans of "War, war until victory," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," and "Death to Saddam" to fight next to their brother combatant and to fulfill the call for victory by the revolution's leader. We invite you to listen to excerpts from the departure ceremony held for these dear ones. [indistinct slogans] The Central News Unit, Mahabad. [end recording]

In addition, a report from the Central News Unit in Sanadaj states that in the continuing, large-scale departure of people from all walks of life for the front of the war of good against evil, three battalions of combat-specialized forces left yesterday from Sanandaj, Qorveh, and Bijar under the names of Sixth Convoy for Karbala' and Third Labbak Ya Imam Convoy. The townspeople gave them a warm send-off on their way to the fronts of the imposed war.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,575

LD261634 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — Iraq's al-Ommaya and al-Bakr [names as received] oil platforms incurred substantial damage when they were heavily bombed by Iranian jet-fighters at 1525 hours (1155 hours GMT) Tuesday, said a military communique here.

Communique number 2,575 released by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces said that the fighters after successfully carrying out the mission returned to bases safely.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses throughout the fronts Monday when their positions were shelled by Iranian forces Monday, the communique said.

The military communique said that three Iraqi bunkers and two observations posts were destroyed and enemy supply operations halted in the Western fronts Monday as Iranian forces shelled Iraqi positions and supply convoys.

Over the same period, the communique said, Iranian Muslim combatants reconnoitered and opened artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions in the southern fronts inflicting casualties and damage on them.

An Iraqi armoured unit operating in Panjwin, northwestern fronts incurred heavy damage when it came under Iranian artillery fire on Monday, the communique said.

According to the communique, exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Kola Shin and Panjwin as a result of which several Iraqi bunkers and observation posts were destroyed and enemy fire silenced.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said, responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts Monday inflicting considerable casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Elsewhere, the military communique said that convoys of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahr-Anbar and Eynkhosh, both in the southern fronts, were forced to flee when they were reconnoitered and shelled by Iranian muslim combatants.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi armoured units in Yebis on Monday silenced their fire, the communique said.

Sudanese Mediation in War with Iraq Denied

LD271027 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 27 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, aug. 27, IRNA — The Iranian Embassy in the United Arab Emirates, in a statement Wednesday, denied recent statements of a Sudanese official on Sudan's mediation in the Iraqi-imposed war. The *UAE News Agency* quoting statements of the Sudanese prime minister's personal advisor, 'Abd al-Rahman Farah, made in a press conference in Abu Dhabi, allegedly reported on Iran's readiness to accept Sudan's mediation in the Iraqi-imposed war. The report, carried by the UAE newspapers, said that the readiness was announced during the recent visit of an Iranian official to Khartoum.

The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the UAE, terming the report "baseless", stressed that Iran will only agree with measures which guarantee Iran's conditions — condemnation and punishment of the Iraqi regime.

The statement also added that contrary to the report of the *UAE News Agency*, the Sudanese oil minister, Adam Madibu, is not presently in Iran. It said that Madibu is to visit Iran in the next few days to hold talks with Iranian officials on economic and oil cooperation, bilateral relations, and to inaugurate the Sudanese Embassy in Tehran.

'Realism' Toward War Urged on Nonaligned Nations

NC231108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati just visited Pakistan and India. This trip, which began on Monday, was aimed at coordinating views and setting out the Islamic Republic's opinions concerning the agenda of the Eighth Nonaligned Summit, as well as discussing our country's relations with India and Pakistan. Mr Velayati was in Pakistan until Wednesday and during his stay there he met with high-ranking officials; namely, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, the speaker of parliament, the vice president, and foreign minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Mr Velayati also held meetings on the same topics with New Delhi officials. It should be recalled that India is one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement which it now chairs, a position that it will hand over to Zimbabwe in 2 weeks time with the opening of the Eighth Nonaligned Summit.

As part of efforts to draw other countries' attention to the Islamic Republic's views on the Nonaligned Movement's problems, and to effect the necessary coordination, the foreign minister visited eight African countries — Tanzania, Gabon, Zimbabwe, Benin, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria — during the past 2 weeks.

The Eighth Nonaligned Summit is to open in late August in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital. Reports speak of Zimbabwe's preparations to receive the heads of 101 nonaligned countries. More than 2,000 correspondents are expected to cover this conference.

Undoubtedly, the most important topic on the agenda will be apartheid and how to confront the South African regime. This topic gains more importance when one considers the fact that the meeting is to be held in Harare, the capital of one of the progressive Frontline States fighting the Pretoria regime, and that for the next (?3) years the movement's leadership will be in the hands of one of these countries.

Apart from this topic, whose discussion is expected to result in a change in the struggle of progressive nations against racism, other topics, such as Iraq's war against Iran, are likely to be discussed.

The Nonaligned Movement has not approached this issue favorably during the past 6 years. Despite the fact that this movement differs in nature from other international organizations, its position on this issue is quite unfair. Now, on the eve of the summit and in view of the fact that this movement's active members are trying by means of regular contacts to alter the agenda according

to their interests, some nations are trying to once again portray the imposed war unfairly and in a way far removed from its true reasons and motives.

Naturally, any move in this direction, or attempts to ignore Iran's legal demands, will not only be rejected by the Islamic Republic, but will also make the enemy even more brazen in the pursuance of its crimes. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always wanted international organizations such as the Nonaligned Movement to tackle the issue of the war, and it considers the most principled stand on this to be the condemnation of Iraq as the fomenter of the war and as the aggressor. Moreover, condemnation of Baghdad's war crimes, the perpetration of which has been confirmed by international circles, will be seen as a positive step. The deployment of chemical weapons, endangering of civilian air routes, and attacks on residential areas all prove that these crimes have been perpetrated by the Iraqi regime. They have been documented in the archives of world organization such as the United Nations.

In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that the Nonaligned Movement will see the imposed war in more realistic terms and adopt a stand of radical opposition to it, thus making up for its past mistakes. Naturally, if this comes to pass, one can then hope that the movement will play a constructive role in reviving the lost rights of the resistant Iranian nation. Otherwise, and as pointed out by the Iranian foreign minister in a recent interview, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not place its destiny in the hands of international organizations.

IRNA Notes Reported Egyptian, British Arms for Iraq

LD222133 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] London, Aug 22, IRNA — Egypt has agreed to supply Iraq with anti-aircraft defence systems to be deployed in the Shatt al-'Arab area in anticipation of expected Iranian air attacks.

The London-based Arab daily *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* quoted a responsible source in Cairo as saying that the anti-aircraft systems to be supplied to Baghdad will be able to deal with low or high flying aircraft. The paper did not mention the name of the systems. The deal followed talks in the Egyptian capital earlier this month between Iraqi defence Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah and his opposite number General 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, who is also in charge of war material production.

Egypt is Iraq's number one Arab arms supplier in the war against Iran. During Khayrallah's visit an official Egyptian newspaper said that Egypt had exported dlrs 241 million worth of arms to Iraq only in first seven months of this year. The Egyptian defence minister was invited to visit Baghdad to complete the negotiations, but a date has yet to be fixed for the trip.

Iraq has had no diplomatic relations with Egypt following the Camp David agreements. Moreover it was in Iraq and under the Baghdad government leadership that Egypt was expelled from the Arab League. Finally, Baghdad did not consult Cairo about its conflict with Iran according to the June 1950 joint defence treaty between Egypt and Iraq.

However towards the end of 1981 Egyptian-Iraqi relations started warming up again. The period corresponded roughly to the time Iran started gaining the upper hand in the war. Secret and open exchanges of visits between the two countries were boosted especially after Iran broke the siege around the cities of Abadan and Khorramshah.

A major reason behind Cairo's support for Baghdad is to try to prevent an outright Iranian victory over Iraq since it would be a huge morale booster for the growing Islamic movement in Egypt.

Israel was also pleased with Egypt's position because it could undermine the rise of an Islamic jihad aimed at eliminating the occupation of Al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Meanwhile, Cairo has submitted a military shopping list to Britain including a number of Tornado fighter bombers, according to an Arabic newspaper here.

The pro-Iraqi *Al-Arab* reported that they learnt of secret talks held between a British military committee and an Egyptian arms delegation upon their return to Cairo. Topping the list of Egyptian requirements, the paper states, were 20 Tornado fighter aircraft, similar to those recently ordered in a multi-billion dollar deal by Saudi Arabia.

Oman has also purchased a number of the aircraft and Jordan is also currently studying the possible purchase of the joint Western European built warplane.

Discussions also included 8 submarines equipped with sea-to-sea and sea-to-land missiles and anti-aircraft radar systems and artillery, *Al-Arab* said.

The report added that the British Defence Ministry has to sanction the deal before the military commission can give an official go-ahead to Egypt's request. A Ministry of Defence spokesman told IRNA [he] could neither confirm or deny the report.

Tehran Radio Condemns U.S.-Egyptian Maneuvers

LD251132 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners. Egyptian and U.S. naval and air forces are taking part in joint maneuvers in Egyptian territorial waters and airspace in the Mediterranean region as well as in international waters near this region. These maneuvers are regarded as a continuation of previous U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers conducted in Egyptian territorial waters and airspace at various times as was the case the during the maneuvers codenamed "Rising Star."

The American military establishment, while expressing an interest in carrying out such maneuvers with Egyptian forces from time to time, is not interested in developing the fighting ability of the Egyptian forces but seeks to develop the fighting ability of U.S. forces particularly when operating in the conditions and atmosphere of the Middle East region.

Likewise, the choice of Egyptian forces and Egyptian airspace, waters, and territory for this mission reflects the importance of Egypt for U.S. strategy and the role of the Egyptian regime in this strategy.

Since the era of the buried Al-Sadat, especially following the signing of the treasonous Camp David agreement, Egypt has placed all its eggs in the American basket, politically, economically, and militarily.

The Camp David agreements and their provisions not only link Egypt to the Zionist entity but also firmly link it to Washington. This link involves adopting an African and Middle East position which serves U.S. strategy. In this connection, the U.S. military establishment has developed a number of Egyptian air bases to provide the necessary facilities for the U.S. forces when needed, as was the case in the strategic R'as Banus base.

In connection with this U.S. strategy, the joint U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers take place from time to time to test these facilities and to develop the American fighting ability in such conditions.

Afghan Mujahidin Shoot Down 2 Soviet MiG's

LD241533 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 24, IRNA — Two Soviet MiG fighter bombers were shot down by anti-aircraft defence units of Afghan Muslim revolutionaries near Samangan city, it was announced Saturday.

Meanwhile, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked positions of joint Soviet-Afghan government forces in the same region over the past two weeks killing 80 joint forces and setting ablaze their munitions. One undamaged tank and a considerable amount of munitions were seized during the operations.

Tens of aircraft provided support to the ground forces during these operations carried out in Ahanche and Zohr-e Abi [placenames as received] cities in Samangan vicinity. A large number of infantry troops were killed or wounded.

Afghan mujahidin sources reported four martyrs during these clashes adding that fighting was still continuing as of Saturday night, the time the report was given.